

Remarks

The Examiner and Applicants' attorney reached an agreement on amended claim language during a phone interview on March 8, 2005, and, as a result, the Examiner requested that Applicants file a Supplemental Amendment with the agreed-upon claim amendments. This Supplemental Amendment is submitted pursuant to the Examiner's request. The claim amendments hereinabove are in accordance with the agreement reached during the phone interview of March 8, 2005. During the phone interview of March 8, 2005, the Examiner indicated verbally that the claim amendments hereinabove would place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request entry of this Supplemental Amendment if the Examiner concurs that the claim amendments presented herein accurately reflect the agreed upon claim language. Accordingly, allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. Claims 1-10 remain pending. However, if the Examiner does not concur, Applicants respectfully request that this Supplemental Amendment not be entered and that the Examiner continue prosecution of the above-referenced application.

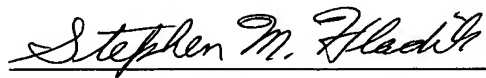
Claims 1 and 7-10 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim certain features of Applicants' invention. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in FIG. 1, which shows risers 13 along the edges of branch 15 of wax runner 11, and on page 5, lines 14-15 and lines 18-21 of the specification, for example. Support for the amendment to claims 7-10 is provided in FIG. 6, which shows stock 35 and locator 31 as one embodiment of means for positioning the wax runner in a fixture, FIG. 7, which shows head stock 37, tail stock 39, and locator 31 as another embodiment of means for positioning the wax runner in a fixture, and page 6, lines 12-14, for example. Also, page 2, lines 11-21 of the specification, for instance, provides support for a means for positioning the wax runner in a fixture of an automated pattern assembly system. Claims 8-10 were merely amended to reflect the amended preamble of claim 7 from which claims 8-10 depend. The amendments to the claims hereinabove are not meant to indicate Applicants' acquiescence to the substance of the Office Action dated November 29, 2004 to which Applicants filed a fully-responsive Amendment and Response to Office Action on

February 25, 2005. No new matter is added to the application by any amendment presented herein.

For the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-10 recite patentable subject matter over the applied art. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-10 is respectfully requested, and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this case with Applicants' attorney, please contact Applicants' attorney at the phone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stephen M. Hladik". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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